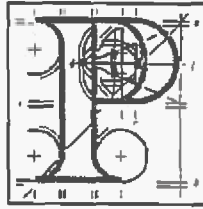

An Bord Pleanála



Ref.: 01JA0032

Development: Continued operation of landfilling activities and an increase in waste acceptance at Powerstown Landfill, Powerstown, Co Carlow.

Local Authority: Carlow County Council

ORAL HEARING RECOMMENDATION:

Approval is sought by Carlow County Council for the continued operation of existing landfill operations at Powerstown landfill, to fill remaining landfill void space and for an increase in the annual waste acceptance from 40,000 to 50,000 tonnes per annum. No new infrastructure or construction works are proposed. Approval was previously granted to Carlow County Council under ref. 01.EL2020 for an extension to the existing landfill and ancillary activities at Powerstown. That permission expired on 21st January 2012, after the approved period of 8 years.

The subject application, made under Section 175 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000-2010, was submitted to the Board on 20th February 2012. The existing facility is currently the subject of a waste licence (W0025-03) issued in December 2009. Conditions of the licence restrict landfilling to 40,000 tonnes/annum and a revised licence is to be sought from the agency.

Third Parties:

Two third party submissions on the application have been received, one of which has requested an oral hearing. The issues raised in the submissions can be summarised as follows:

- Impact on residential amenities by reason of proximity, noise, dust and fly infestation.
- Increase in traffic, with associated noise, dust and odour implications.
- Lack of road upgrade to Garryhundon Crossroads, in breach of the previous permission.
- The status and future of the buffer zone adjoining landfill should be clarified.
- The nature and source of the daily cover material to be used should be clarified.
- The cumulative effects of the development, along with extraction sites and their associated production processes, due to emissions and increased risk ground and surface water, should be assessed
- Impacts of emissions from the original / phase 1 landfill on groundwater.
- Information deficiencies in the application.
- Inadequate landscaping and screening of the development.

- Impact of sun exposure on the installed landfill liner.
- The civic amenity site should have a separate permission so that it can continue in operation beyond the life of the landfill.
- Declining rates of waste acceptance indicate that the proposed increase in annual intake is not necessary.

Prescribed Bodies.

Submissions have been received from the following bodies:

- Inland Fisheries Ireland
- NRA
- HSE
- An Taisce
- EPA

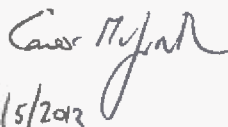
Issues raised include:

- Impacts on ground and surface water quality from construction activity and leachate production.
- Impacts on Natura Sites.
- Requirement for a Traffic and Transport Assessment
- Adequacy of noise surveys.
- Community Fund required under the waste licence.
- The continued use of the site for operation as a waste transfer site.
- Control of emissions by the waste licence.

Recommendation

I have reviewed the file and the submissions received by the Board, as well as the planning history for the site and relevant planning policy. I do not consider that an oral hearing is warranted in respect of this application and further consider that the issues arising can be adequately addressed through written submissions.

Conor McGrath SPI
10/05/2012


10/5/2012

